

HOUSE No. 5809

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 16, 1971.

The committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred so much of the annual report of the Judicial Council (Pub. Doc. No. 144) as relates to establishing a child abuse division within the probate courts (pages 68-72), report recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 5809) ought to pass.

For the committee,

CORNELIUS F. KIERNAN

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-One.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 119 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by adding at the end of Section 39A the following:

3 Any physician treating such a child under sixteen years shall
4 have the right to keep such child in his custody until such time as
5 the custody of the child has been transferred to the appropriate
6 police authorities.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 119 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by adding after Section 39B the following new section:

3 *Section 39C.* Any social services worker or school official
4 having reasonable cause to suspect that a child under the age of
5 sixteen years has had serious physical injury inflicted upon him
6 by other than accidental means or whose condition gives
7 indication of other serious abuse or maltreatment shall report or
8 cause reports to be made to the court. Said report shall be
9 admissible in evidence in any proceedings relating to child abuse.